

**Notes from Bike/Hike Meeting**  
**November 17, 2015**

**Present:** Lynn Goldman, Judy Hendrixson, Sarah Patterson, Baker Engineers, Paul Gordon, Andy Clark, Marilyn Jacobson, Louise Silberg, Buckingham Township, Dick Bach, Dick Patterson, Bill Wert, Andy Hamilton, Shawn Touhill, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township Manager.

**Guest:** Jill Coulton

**Review of Projects**

**Heritage Trail** – Sarah Patterson, Baker Engineers indicated that the barrier and the rail have been installed; the fence will be installed shortly. The project is moving along and should be finished soon.

**Neshaminy Greenway Phase III** – Ms. Hendrixson indicated that the engineer had met and mapped out the path along the properties and met with the property owners. She indicated how having this trail will certainly increase the resale value of the homes and enhance the area and address a significant drainage issue in New Britain Borough as well.

Ms. Coulton indicated that she appreciated the meeting and had questions about the potential for a fence and the type of fence. It was explained that she should share the type of fence that she would like to see, it could be installed on the property.

Ms. Coulton was also concerned about drainage in the swale. Ms. Hendrixson explained how the pipe would work and wants to make sure that the area absorbs water into the drain and doesn't create ponding on the property.

Ms. Coulton asked about repairs to the fence, it was indicated that New Britain Borough would be able to come back and make necessary repairs from time to time. She appreciated the Committees time.

**Lower State Road** – We deferred until the 9:00AM meeting with the property owners that are impacted by that project.

**Other Business –**

**Bike Route S – Pebble Hill Road** – Mr. Hamilton indicated that as a director for the East Coast Greenway he had contacted the state to seek assistance with reclassifying that road. It has been restriped with the speed limit reduced to 35MPH; with 10' lanes it allows a little bit more room for the bikes. However, there is a lot of deer crossing and it is difficult. It was recommended that sharrows that share the road so that motorists are aware that the road allows for bikes would be helpful.

Ms. Silberg indicated that Buckingham is addressing bike trails in their community and Mr. Hamilton suggested continue to work with Buckingham and perhaps making a connection near Cloverleaf through the woods to Route 263.

**911 National Memorial** – 1,300 mile trail is in draft plan right now. Mr. Hamilton indicated that the north leg will come across Pennsylvania mostly along the Route 202 Corridor. There is a website that has been established.

**9:00AM – Lower State Road** – The Committee met with property owners along Lower State Road.

In attendance: Art Glass, Delaware Valley University; Rachel Mauer, YMCA; Ron Lock, CB West were in attendance, in addition on the telephone was the State Bike Route Coordinator, Steve Pohowsky.

Ms. Patterson indicated the plans for the project and that Baker Engineers has been working with SEPTA, it has been determined that SEPTA cannot fund the full improvement to the railroad crossing at Lower State Road, however, consideration is being given for additional funding from DVRPC to help with the crossing as New Britain Borough will be receiving 100% funding from SEPTA for the crossing at Almshouse at the New Britain Train Station.

We talked about the slope that meets the tracks and doing it at a perpendicular angle. There would be an handman signal for the crossing at the tracks. We are within the right of way of Teversal and have a verbal agreement with the Martins to allow the easement through their property. Those should be resolved.

Mr. Ball has indicated that he would prefer not to have an easement. The Committee discussed potential alternatives to the easement on his property, perhaps, shrinking the trail to keep it within the road right of way. The fact that Mr. Ball is under a misunderstanding that the trail cuts through his property and will detract from the agricultural/horticultural use of the property. It was suggested that plans and a letter be sent to him because funding was included to the wall and landscaping and fencing along the Lower State Road right of way. We believe that Mr. Ball does not understand how heavily used Lower State Road is for young people. Mr. Lock indicated that the Boys and Girls Cross Country Team use Lower State Road and having a trail the high school believes it would be safer to have them running on a trail vs. out in the middle of the roadway, which is what they do now.

Ms. Mauer, YMCA indicated that they use Lower State Road for 5K races and believes having a trail along there would be safer than allowing the 5K racers in the roadway.

Art Glass, Delaware Valley University indicated that a lot of students walk to and from town and utilize Lower State Road to access the university. Having the trail across the Farm Market Property on the University property will provide a much safer route for students.

Ms. Goldman said that if there are difficulties we can always do a public fundraising campaign.

Mr. Hamilton indicated that he would commit \$500 to that if necessary.

The conclusion was to have a letter sent to Mr. Ball.

The State Bike Route Coordinator commended the Committee for its work in developing trails for almost 25 years and working to connect trails to state Bike Route S. He indicated that the Doylestown Community Bike/Hike Committee is well respected in its work.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30AM. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie J. Mason  
Township Manager